

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
at least one input device;
at least one display device; and
at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:
display a plurality of selection groups;
display a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups, wherein a first one of the selections in a first one of the selection groups is linked to a first one of the selections in a second one of the selection groups;
associate a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups is associated with has one of said advances associated with said selection;
associate at least one award with at least one of the selections of at least one of the selection groups;
provide a player a number of picks of the selections from the selection groups adapted to be provided to a player;
an advance award adapted to be provided to the player if:
indicate the at least one award if either:
(a) the player picks said selection associated with the at least one award, or
(b) one of the advances causes the pick of said selection associated with the at least one award; and

(a)—~~if the player picks one of the selections with an associated~~ with one of the advances advance from the first selection group, and said picked selection is linked to the first selection in the second selection group:

- (i) ~~(b)—said advance automatically causes~~ cause the pick of one of the first selection selections from the second selection group associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups, and
- (ii) provide an advance award if another one of the advances is associated with said first selection from the second selection group caused to be picked by the advance; and

~~a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and advance award.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick caused by said advance does not count against the provided number of picks.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of links between the selections of at least two of the selection groups, wherein each selection associated with a first one of the selection groups is linked to one of the second selections from a second one of the selection groups, and any advance associated with any one of the selections of the first selection group causes the pick of the selection in the second selection group which is linked to said selection in the first selection group.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 3, wherein the at least one display device is adapted to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of the at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to associate a plurality of the advances are adapted to be associated with a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the selection groups are arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of each one of the groups, wherein said at least one processor is programmed to indicate the award is adapted to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player is provided each award

associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player-is-provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to reset the number of picks is reset-upon picking one of the selections having an associated advance being picked.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
at least one input device;
at least one display device; and
at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

display a plurality of selection groups;

display a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups, wherein at least one first selection associated with a first one of the selection groups is linked to a first one of the selections from a second one of the selection groups;

associate a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups being associated with has one of said advances associated with said selection;

provide a player a number of picks from the selection groups adapted to be provided to a player;

indicate an award adapted to be provided to the player if:

(a) the player picks one of the selections with an associated with one of the advances advance from the first selection group,

(b) said selection picked from the first selection group is linked to the first one of the selections from the second selection group,

(c) said advance automatically causes the pick of one of the first selection selections from the second selection group which is linked to said selection picked from the first selection group associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups, and

(d) another one of the advances is associated with said picked selection caused to be picked from the second selection group by the advance, and

(e) at least one pick of the provided number of picks is remaining; and
~~a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and award.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick caused by said advance does not count against the provided number of picks.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of links between the selections of at least two of the selection groups, wherein ~~each selection associated with a first one of the selection groups is linked to one of the second selections from a second one of the selection groups, and any advance associated with any one of the selections of the first selection group causes the pick of the selection in the second selection group which is linked to said selection in the first selection group.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein the at least one display device is adapted to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of the at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to associate a plurality of the advances are adapted to be associated with a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to display the selection groups are arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate said award is adapted to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to reset the number of picks ~~is reset-upon picking~~ one of the selections having an associated advance being picked.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
at least one input device;
at least one display device; and
at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

display a plurality of selection groups;

display a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups, wherein at least one first selection in a first one of the selection groups is linked to a first one of the selections in a second one of the selection groups;

associate a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups is associated with has one of said advances associated with said selection;

provide a player a number of picks from the selection groups adapted to be provided to a player;

indicate an award adapted to be provided to the player if for each of two picks by the player;

- (a) the player picks one of the selections with an associated with one of the advances advance from the first selection group,
- (b) said picked selection from the first selection group is linked to the first one of the selections from the second selection group,
- (c) said advance automatically causes the pick of one of the selections associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups the selection from the second selection group which is linked to said selection picked from the first selection group, and
- (d) another one of the advances is associated with said selection caused to be picked by the advance is associated with another one of the advances; and

~~a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and award.~~

Claim 26 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick caused by said advance does not count against the provided number of picks.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of links between the selections of at least two of the selection groups, ~~wherein each selection associated with a first one of the selection groups is linked to one of the second selections from a second one of the selection groups, and any advance associated with any one of the selections of the first selection group causes the pick of the selection in the second selection group which is linked to said selection in the first selection group.~~

Claim 28 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 27, wherein the at least one display device is adapted to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of ~~the~~ at least two of the selection groups.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to associate a plurality of the advances are adapted to be associated with a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to display the selection groups are arranged in an order such that and a percentage of advances ~~associated with the selections decreases~~ for each subsequent selection group.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein said at least one processor is programmed to indicate the award is adapted to be

provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate ~~player is provided each~~ award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate the player ~~is provided each~~ award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate the ~~player is provided each~~ award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to indicate the ~~player is provided each~~ award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to reset the number of picks is reset upon picking a selection having an associated advance symbol being picked.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
at least one input device;
at least one display device; and
at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

display a plurality of different selection groups;
display a plurality of selections in each of said different selection groups;
display a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of a plurality of the different selection groups is associated with has one of said advances-associated with said selection;

indicate a number of picks from the selection groups-adapted to be provided to for a player, said indicated number of picks being usable to pick from the plurality of the different selection groups;

indicate an advance award adapted to be provided to the player if:

- (a) the player picks one of the selections ~~with an associated~~ with one of the advances ~~advance, said pick counting against the indicated number of picks.~~
- (b) said advance automatically causes the pick of one of the selections associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups,
- (c) a second one of the advances is associated with said selection caused to be picked by the advance, and
- (d) said second advance automatically causes the pick of one of the selections associated with another a ~~a~~ subsequent one of the selection groups or the advance award, said pick of said selection caused to be picked by the second advance from the another subsequent selection group not counting against the indicated number of picks; and

~~a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and advance award.~~

Claim 38 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
at least one input device;
at least one display device; and
at least one processor programmed to operate with the at least one display device and the at least one input device to:

display a plurality of first selections;
associate a first advance associated with one of the first selections;
display a plurality of second selections, wherein at least one each of the
first selections is individually associated with one of the second selections;

indicate an advance award adapted to be provided to a player if:

- (a) the first selection picked generates the first advance,
- (b) the first selection picked is individually associated with one of the second selections,
- (c) and the first advance automatically causes the second selection individually associated with the picked first selection to be picked, and
- (d) wherein the picked second selection generates a second advance; and

~~a display device operable to display said first selections, first advance, second selections, second advance and advance award.~~

Claim 39 (original): The gaming device of Claims 38, which includes at least one award associated with one of the first selections.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 38, wherein the at least one processor is programmed to display the first and second selections aligned to

indicate the associations between the first selections and second selections—
are displayed by the display device as an alignment of the first and second selections.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device including a wagering game, said method comprising:

(a) providing a number of picks to a player, the provided number of picks being usable to pick from a plurality of selection groups, each of the selection groups including a plurality of selections;

(ba) enabling the a-player to pick at least one selection from a first one of the selection groups group—until the picked selection is associated with player—picks—a first advancement, the first advancement advancing the player through the first selection group;

(cb) if the picked selection associated with the first advancement does not generate a second advancement in a second one of the selection groups group, enabling the player to pick at least one selection from the second selection group until the player picks the picked selection from the second selection group is associated with the second advancement—in the second selection group, the second advancement advancing the player through the second selection group; and

(d) tracking a quantity of picks used by the player to advance through the first and second selection groups; and

(ee) providing an advance award to the player for advancing through each of the first and second selection groups if the tracked quantity a-number-of picks used-to advance through the groups is less than or equal to the a-provided number of picks.

Claim 42 (original): The method of Claim 41, which includes providing a separate number of picks for the first and second selection groups.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method of Claim 41, which includes requiring at least one pick to be used to receive the advance award.

Claim 44 (original): The method of Claim 41, which includes, upon the picking of first advancement, automatically revealing one of the selections in the second group, wherein the automatically revealed selection can yield the second advancement.

Claim 45 (original): The method of Claim 44, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is related to the selection in the first group that yielded the first advancement.

Claim 46 (original): The method of Claim 44, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is randomly chosen upon picking the first advancement.

Claim 47 (original): The method of Claim 41, which includes not counting a pick in the second group that yields the second advancement if the pick is a result of a pick of the first advancement in the first group.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of Claim 41, which includes providing steps (a) to (e) via a data network or a computer storage device.

Claim 49 (original): The method of Claim 48, wherein the data network includes an internet.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming device, said method comprising:

(a) providing a number of picks to a player, the provided number of picks being usable to pick from a plurality of selection groups, each of the selection groups including a plurality of selections;

(ba) enabling the a-player to pick from a first one of the selection groups group until the player picks a first advancement;

(cb) if the first advancement is not linked with ~~does not generate a~~ second advancement in a second one of the selection groupsgroup, enabling the player to pick from the second selection group until the player picks the second advancement; ~~and~~

(d) if the first advancement is linked with the second advancement in the second selection group, automatically causing the second advancement to be picked without counting against the number of picks; and

(ee) providing an advance award to the player for advancing through the first and second selection groups within a designated number of the player picks, ~~wherein a second advancement is obtained without counting against the number of picks if it is generated directly after the first advancement is generated.~~

Claim 51 (original): The method of Claim 50, which includes, upon picking the first advancement, automatically revealing one of the selections in the second group, wherein the automatically revealed selection can yield the second advancement.

Claim 52 (original): The method of Claim 51, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is related to the selection in the first group that yielded the first advancement.

Claim 53 (original): The method of Claim 51, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is randomly indicated by the first advancement.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The method of Claim 50, which includes providing steps (a) to (~~ee~~) via a data network or a computer storage device.

Claim 55 (original): The method of Claim 54, wherein the data network includes an internet.